



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

December 3, 2019

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. John Elliott, Chair Pro Tem, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chair, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [Mr. Cain arrived late], County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Caitlin Herrington / Daily Journal & Jimmy Watt / 94.1 The Lake WSNW.

Call to Order:

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Ms. Jean Jennings addressed Council regarding the importance of Oconee County employees using professionalism.

Mr. Tony Adams addressed Council regarding the professionalism of some County Council members during the 11/19/2019 Special Council meeting.

Ms. Sarai Melendez, member of the Public Transportation Task Force, addressed Council regarding public transportation and also referenced support letters and survey responses [copy filed with backup materials].

Ms. Sharon DeRidder, member of the Public Transportation Task Force, addressed Council regarding public transportation, grants, and if a member of Council is going to be sitting on the Sewer Authority board.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council regarding the public transportation, the number of passengers on the CATBus, and a cost benefit study.

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Ms. Teri Close addressed Council purposing to have a dog park in Walhalla, SC along the back side of Pine Street and Emergency Services.

Mr. John Bickford addressed Council in favor of public transportation.

Mr. Matt Durham addressed Council regarding the number of passengers on the CATBus and a health clinic.

Mr. Cain arrived during the Public Comment session.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. McCall responded to the comments regarding the public transportation noting the agreement was in place through two prior Administrators and also the number of passengers on the bus.

Mr. Davis responded to Ms. DeRidder's question regarding a Council member sitting on the Sewer Authority Board noting this Council has requested that a member sit on the Board.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Davis asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. McCall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the November 19, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to approve the November 19, 2019 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock briefly updated Council regarding the following:

- Move financial reports to the 2nd Council meeting of each month so the previous month is accurate and that each report reflects the cumulative balance
- Introduced the Pine Street Security Deputy, Deputy Steve Wessendorf

Proclamation 2019-14

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE SENECA HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE 3A TITLE.

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Mr. Cain read the proclamation into the record.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2019-14** on first & final reading.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2019-23 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS OF SC INC.; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.”

Mr. Root noted on page 7, section 3.03 (a) of the Infrastructure Agreement, there is a red line on the second line in regards to the first payment of the fee in lieu of taxes payment that will be due from the Company to Oconee County by January 15, 2020; it should read January 15, 2021.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Ordinance 2019-23** on second reading.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to amend page 7, section 3.03 (a) of the Infrastructure Agreement to read January 15, 2021 as discussed.

Mr. Davis called for the vote of the amended motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Ordinance 2019-24 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO ADDENDA FOR LEASE AGREEMENTS TO WHICH THE COUNTY IS A PARTY, PROVIDING FOR ALTERNATE COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-24** on second reading.

First Reading for the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2019-22 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY (“OJRSA”) AND OCONEE COUNTY,

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SOUTH CAROLINA (“COUNTY”), WHEREBY COUNTY ADOPTS OJRSA’S SEWER USE REGULATION AND CONFIRMS COUNTY’S DUTY TO MONITOR AND ENFORCE THE SAME WITHIN COUNTY’S SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEMS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-22** on first & final reading.

There was a Scribner’s error on the agenda regarding the previous Resolution. It was referenced as **Resolution 2019-21** but should read **Resolution 2019-22**.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Council approval to allocate matching funding not to exceed \$300,000 to the City of Seneca / Oconee County Electric Bus Expansion Project Grant No. SC-2018-018-00

In 2016, the City of Seneca applied for a Low or No Emission Program with the DOT/Federal Transit Administration. They received \$1,450,000 Federal Funds and the local match of \$500,000 for a total project cost of \$1,950,000. Oconee County provided a commitment letter of \$300,000 towards the matching dollars in April 2016. Due to delays in production, the requirement for allocating funding was not necessary at the time of approval. The matching funding has been included in, and approved in the Oconee County FY2019-2020 budget. This match is for the purchase of two 35-foot Proterra Catalyst Buses.

It is staff’s recommendation to approve the allocation of matching funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve the allocation of matching funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Mr. Root noted the letters were directed by County Council from 2016 and 2018 noting funding will be given towards the buses on both years and was included in the budget and this matter was agreed upon previously.

Discussion continued to include:

- Council would need to approve commitment letters to bound the County
- Utilization and coverage
- ADA friendly
- Help citizens get back and forth to work/school

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Mr. Elliott, it was approved 5 – 0, to approve the allocation of matching funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

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Local ATAX / Oconee County PRT / \$47,000

A portion of Local ATAX revenues received by Oconee County are made available for ATAX grants through Ordinance 2011-12. ATAX grants are to be tourism related grants that meet the ATAX guidelines specified by local and State mandates. Grants are recommended by the PRT Commission based on tourism impact of the project and approved by County Council. All external ATAX grant recipients are required to turn in intermediate reports every 60 days to the progress of the grant and a final report upon completion of the grant.

It is staff's recommendation of Council approval of the local ATAX recommendation per the attached spreadsheet.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the local ATAX recommendations.

Discuss corridor planning options and instruct County Administrator, with the assistance of Planning Department staff, to refine such options and deliver the same to the Planning Commission for deliberation and action

Ms. Brock noted the 123 corridor study plan and implementation options was passed about a month ago, there was a joint meeting with County Council and the Planning Commission and were some options for what changes could be made. She further noted they were looking for options coming from the Administrator's Office and Planning Department rather than circle around the Planning Commission, back to Council, back to Planning Commission, etc. and put the options on the table for the Planning Commission and Council to review. Discussion continued.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Administrator, along with the assistance of the Planning Department staff regarding the corridor planning, to refine such options and deliver the same as to the Planning Commission for deliberation and action.

Council Committee Reports

Mr. Cain read from a prepared statement [copy filed with backup materials] outlining the discussions held at the November 19, 2019 Planning & Economic Development Committee.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No questionnaires were submitted for the 1 At Large seat.

Mr. Davis noted the At-Large seat requires an architecture to be appointed and we cannot find anyone that has this ability that lives in the County that wants to serve. Further, he noted if Council decided to change and stay within the parameters of this expertise, would that have to change the makeup of the Building Codes Appeal Board to remove the architecture position?

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Mr. Root noted when this board was reconstituted, it was the prior Building Codes Department Director that wanted it to be reshaped so there would be building professionals. He further noted this was mandatory on the ordinance but this could be amended and could be put on the December 17, 2019 for discussion.

Arts & Historical Commission

No questionnaires were submitted for the District III seat.

Mr. Davis noted the original design of the Arts & Historical Commission was about the museums and funding for the museums but seems like the majority of the funding comes through Council and the Administrator's Office. Discussion continued.

Ms. Brock noted beginning in January, each Board and Commission of Council could make a presentation quarterly or annually on what their progress has been and if they have request for feedback from Council at that time. The staff liaison or Chairman of each Board would be making the presentation and would be a benefit to Council and to the public as well.

Unfinished Business

None at this meeting.

New Business

None at this meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

— *Discussion regarding personnel matters related to the Oconee County Council.*

— *Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Trout.*

[1] *Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Bolt.*

Council entered Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Davis stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

~~Discuss and authorize County Council Chairman or County Administrator to issue a letter, on behalf of the Oconee County Council, in support of Project Trout.~~

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Authorize County Administrator to execute letter or other memorialization of County's commitment to Project Bolt and matters related thereto.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to authorize the County Administrator to execute a letter or other memorialization of the County's commitment to Project Bolt and other matters related thereto.

Adjourn:

Mr. Cain made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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